

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 20, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-128)

TO: Joe DeHerrera - KEWB
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Weaver/McWennegar Slough Riparian Habitat

Project No: 2002-042-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources

Location: Flathead County, Montana

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Flathead Land Trust.

Description of the Proposed Action: Purchase of a conservation easement on 412 acres of priority wetlands in the McWennegar Slough area to protect fisheries values in the Flathead River system.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Roger Semler of the Flathead Land Trust, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). No Endangered Species Act consultation, cultural resources surveys or consultations, or permitting is required, as this is a conservation easement to maintain the status quo. Corwin Environmental Consultants conducted an environmental land audit in November 2003; no issues were identified.

Flathead Land Trust has consulted with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, state and Federal fish and wildlife agencies, the Flathead County Planning Office, and a number of local conservation groups and individuals. There has been substantial press coverage of the project and the local daily newspaper has published editorials supporting the project. The project has the support and cooperation of 13 conservation group and agency partners.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or

information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy Weintraub 11-20-03

Nancy H. Weintraub
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 11-21-03

Attachments:

Checklist

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Roger Semler, Flathead Land Trust
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